

CLASSIFICATION SECRET 25X1

COUNTRY Eastern Germany

TOPIC Koethen Airfield

EVALUATION 25X1 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 8 August to 4 September 1952

DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 10 October

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1

25X1

- 25X1
1. The following air activity was observed at Koethen airfield between 8 August and 4 September 1952:
 8 August. At 11:17 a.m., eight swept-back jet fighters took off in elements of two. A formation of 10 swept-back jet fighters was observed over the field at 11:20 a.m. All the planes were equipped with auxiliary fuel tanks.
 12 August. At 10:07 a.m., seven swept-back jet fighters, [redacted] took off. Four MiG-15 and type-29 planes, [redacted] took off at 10:30 a.m.
 18 August. A biplane landed at 10:30 a.m. and immediately took off again. The flight of four alert planes was still parked at its previous location. [redacted] Between 10:30 and 11:10 a.m., [redacted] 25X1
 heard the practice firing of pistols and machine guns.
 4 September. Between 6:10 and 7 p.m., 23 MiG-15s and 2 Yak-11s were counted at the field. ** At 6:42 p.m., 16 MiG-15s took off at short intervals. The formation was aloft within two minutes and departed. It was not observed landing up to 8 p.m. After 8 p.m., searchlights were in operation and the runway lights were switched on.
 2. Three gun emplacements and two large tents guarded by two sentries each were observed next to the alert planes. **
 3. After nightfall, two sentries armed with rifles were observed patrolling both on Baasdorf-Koethen road and another road. The same observation was made on 8 September.
 4. During the morning of 11 August, there was intensive air activity. Six Yak-11s and 23 swept-back jet fighters were counted at the field. Between 9:30 p.m. and 3:15 a.m. on the next morning, flights were made while searchlights were in operation. The following take-offs and landings were observed on 12 August:

Take-Offs	Landings	Aircraft
3:53 p.m.		Plane [redacted] 25X1
4:05 "	4:30 p.m.	Blue plane with radial engine towed an air sleeve
4:33 "		Plane [redacted] 25X1

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECRET
- 2 -

25X1

25X1

4:52 p.m.	5:50 to 5:52 p.m.	Eight planes	[redacted]	25X1
		[redacted]	[redacted]	25X1
4:55 "		Plane	[redacted]	25X1
5:20 p.m.		Plane	[redacted] towing an air sleeve	25X1
5:24 "		Plane	[redacted]	25X1
5:45 "		Plane	[redacted]	

On 14 August, two blue fighters with radial engines landed at the field. [redacted]
 [redacted] At 3:36 p.m.
 on 15 August, 11 swept-back jet fighters, [redacted]
 [redacted] took off. The planes landed between 4:36 and 4:40 p.m.
 Plane [redacted] took off at 5:25 p.m. and landed at 5:40 p.m. Twelve swept-back
 jet fighters took off between 6:12 and 6:16 p.m. and landed between 6:58 and
 7:03 p.m. [redacted]
 [redacted]

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